THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Since first part nf June, 1993 after consecutive shower in the monsoon period, series of cables breakdown due to damage on the underground cables have led to cable faults giving rise to a carried over faults of about 11,000 in South area. At present about 5 per cent of the working DELs in South area is remaining faulty for more than a month and 1.5 per cent is remaining faulty for more than 2 months.

(b) No, Sir. In the Rashbehari DTO, out of 6 PCOs, two are working alright and two are faulty. The FAX line is working alright. Out of the three Private Wire circuits, one is working and the other two are faulty.

(c) The cases behind the prevailing situation is being analysed and already steps have been taken for remedial measures. The network upgradation work in number of exchange areas has been planned and in some places work is going on. Replacement of cable is also being planned.

(d) Facts already stated at 'A'.

(e) Steps have been taken to restore all major primary cable breakdown quickly. Intensive operations for attending distribution cables by mobilising manpower from available strength of the District is being carried out. As a long term measure replacement of old cables and ducting of important cables have been planned.

Target Fixed for Upgradation of sub-post Office and opening of New Telegraph Offices in Assam

2555. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be peased to state:

(a) what is the target fixed by Government for 1993-94 for upgradation of sub-past offices in Assam by the Assam Telecom Circle;

(b) what is the target fixed for opening of new telegraph offices in Assam during the year 1993-94; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) POST OFFICES

It is proposed to open/upgrade 3 departmental sub-post offices during 1993-94 in Assam Circle. The detail have not yet been finalised

Telegraph Officers

No target for opening of new telegraph offices in Assam has been fixed for the year 1993-94.

Bank schemes to Rehabilitate ex-servicemen

2556. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has formulated or propose to formulate any scheme for the economic rehabilitation of Ex-Service personnel and widows of Ex-Servicemen of Handicapped members;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether such schemes are also to be made for widow, blind, socially backward people and residents of the border areas; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) State Bank of India